Appointment of a Foreign Merchant Bank for 'Bull-Dog' Issue

2445. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to appoint some foreign merchant bank as the lead manager for the proposed maiden bull-dog issue of Pounds 50 million by a Government of India Undertaking; if so, what are the terms and conditions thereof;

(b) by when the issue is likely to be floated in the London market; and

(c) whether Government agency which will handle the issue of the bonds in the London market has also been decided, and if so; what are the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A place has been obtained through a foreign merchant bank in the queue maintained by Bank of England for a possible issue by an Indian Institution. It is not known when the turn will come and whether an issue would in fact be made having regard to the market condition prevailing at that time.

Holding company for Public Sector Undertakings

2446. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is actively pursuing a proposal to create an 'Umbrella-type' of holding company for public sector undertakings engaged in trading of agricultural or industrial raw materials to make state trading a "potential" instrument for speeding up the programme of country's economic growth;

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There is no such proposal at present under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Loans under the DRI Scheme Disbursed in Andhra Pradesh

2447. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for small loans under DRI scheme has been achieved in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details for each bank in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that some of the banks are insisting on security for these loans;

(d) whether Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by the poorer sections of society to avail of this laudable scheme; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) Under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme the public sector banks have to attain a level of 1 per cent of their total advances as at the end of the previous year. No State-wise targets have been stipulated under DRI Scheme. However in the State of Andhra Pradesh the total DRI advances as at the end of December, 1983 constituted 1.3 per cent of the total advances outstanding as at the end of the previous year. According to the guidelines of DRI Scheme the beneficiaries are eligible for the benefits of the scheme even if they have no tangible security.